

Message Text

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12

ACTION NEA-16

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FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0703

INFO SECDEF WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUWAIT 3640

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS KU

SUBJ: US MILITARY SALES TO KUWAIT

1. DURING DISCUSSION OF AREA AFFAIRS WITH KUWAITI FONMIN SABAH AL-AHMAD AUG 28, I OFFERED PERSONAL OPINION THAT KUWAIT'S RAPID ECONOMIC, FINANCIAL, SOCIAL AND INTERNAL POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT ENABLED IT TO PLAY INCREASINGLY ACTIVE AND CONSTRUCTIVE POLITICAL ROLE IN AREA OF GULF AND ARABIAN PENINSULA. FONMIN REPLIED HE AGREED WITH ME IN PRINCIPLE BUT, HE ADDED, IN ORDER PLAY SUCH ROLE, KUWAIT NEEDED TO SHOW IT WELL ABLE TO DEFEND ITSELF. FONMIN THEN MADE STRONG PITCH FOR MOST RAPID POSSIBLE USG RESPONSE TO KUWAITI REQUESTS FOR US MILITARY EQUIPMENT, TRAINING, SERVICES AND GUIDANCE.

2. COMMENT: THIS IS LATEST ADDITIONAL EVIDENCE -- WHERE NONE IS NEEDED -- THAT GOK HAS MADE FINAL TOP-LEVEL DECISION TO "GO AMERICAN" FOR ITS DEFENSE SYSTEM, INCLUDING AIRCRAFT. WE HAVE EVERY REASON BELIEVE THAT MINDEF WILL SIGN LETTERS OF OFFER ON AIRCRAFT (A-4 APPEARS TO BE THE CHOICE) AND IHAWK SHORTLY AFTER WE HAVE THEM IN HAND HERE. I BELIEVE IT IS IN THE US INTEREST TO EXPEDITE THESE OFFERS.
STOLTZFUS

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